



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR NUECES CANYON ARTS, MUSIC, THEATER, AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

CAMP WOOD, TEXAS, October 11, 2005 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced the Nueces Canyon Arts, Music, Theater, and Historical Association, Inc. (AHMATA) will receive a \$450,000 loan and grant through the agency's Community Facilities program. The funds will be used to renovate an existing civic center and theater complex and construct a new building to host theatrical and musical performances and art exhibitions.

"Rural communities need a central gathering place," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is delighted to assist AHMATA in providing this valuable resource for Real County."

AHMATA incorporated in 1997 with the mission to coordinate, promote, and develop fine arts, liberal arts, music, theater, and historical preservation. The corporation is presently housed in a renovated warehouse which is leased from the school district. The new facility will be adjacent to this site and will house a theater and auditorium.

The goals of USDA Rural Development's Community Programs are to enhance the economic opportunities and quality of life for residents of rural communities through loan and grant programs that create or improve telecommunications, community facilities, and water and waste systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$868 million for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 840,000 households in the process.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Uvalde office at 830-278-9503, Ext. 4 or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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